

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 72, 73, 75, 76, 78 and 79 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please amend the remaining claims as follows:

1. to 62. (Cancelled)

63. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a ~~transfer device~~ capable of communicating with an external storage device ~~set top box that communicates with a cable head end~~ over a network, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting a connection of an external digital device;

providing a user interface in response to detection of the connection of the external digital device;

receiving data from a digital the external digital device, when an upload operation is initiated on the user interface;

determining whether or not said external storage device cable head end is ready to receive the data to be uploaded from said set top box;

~~storing the data in an internal storage device in accordance with a result of the determination; and;~~

uploading the data stored in the internal storage device over the network to said external storage device when said external storage device is ready to said cable head end over the network, in case of a determination that said cable head end is ready to receive the data; and

storing the data locally in the set top box, in case of a determination that said cable head end is not ready to receive the data.

64. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 63, wherein said ~~external storage device~~ set top box ~~is remotely controls said transfer device~~ controlled.

65. (Cancelled)

66. (Currently Amended) A ~~transfer device~~ set top box for transferring data stored in a ~~connected~~ an external digital device to an ~~external storage device~~ which is connectable to and disconnectable from said set top box, wherein said set top box transfers the data to a cable head end with which said ~~transfer device~~ set top box communicates over a network, said ~~transfer device~~, set top box comprising:

a device module which detects connection of the external digital device to said set top box;

a display control module which provides a user interface in response to detection of the connection of the external digital device to said set top box;

an internal memory for temporary storage of data ~~retrieved~~ received from said external digital device;

a determination unit for determining whether or not said ~~external device~~ cable head end is ready to receive ~~the data;~~ and

~~a device module for retrieving data from said digital device and for storing the data in said internal memory in accordance with the determination of said determination unit; and~~

~~an upload unit for uploading the data stored in said internal memory over the network when said external storage device is ready;~~

wherein, responsive to an upload operation initiated on the user interface, said upload unit uploads data received from the external digital device to said cable head end over the network, in a case where said determination unit determines that said cable head end is ready to receive the data; and

whereas, responsive to an upload operation initiated on the user interface, data received from the external digital device is stored locally in said internal memory, in a case where said determination unit determines that said cable head end is not ready to receive the data.

67. (Currently Amended) A ~~transfer device set top box~~ according to Claim 66, wherein said ~~external storage device set top box is remotely controls said transfer device controlled.~~

68. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable memory medium in which computer-executable process steps are stored, the process steps for controlling a ~~transfer device capable of communicating with an external storage device set top box that communicates with a cable head end~~ over a network, wherein the process steps comprise:

a detecting step to detect a connection of an external digital device;

a providing step to provide a user interface in response to detection of the connection of the external digital device;

a retrieving step to retrieve data from a ~~digital~~ the external digital device, when an upload operation is initiated on the user interface;

a determining step to determine whether or not said ~~external storage device cable head end~~ is ready to receive the data to be uploaded from said set top box;

~~—————~~ a storing step to store the data in an internal storage device in accordance with a result of the determination; and;

an uploading step to upload the data stored in the internal storage over the network to said external storage device when said external storage device is ready to said cable head end over the network, in case of a determination that said cable head end is ready to receive the data; and

a storing step to store the data locally in the set top box, in case of a determination that said cable head end is not ready to receive the data.

69. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable memory medium according to Claim 68, wherein said ~~external storage device~~ set top box is remotely controls said ~~transfer device~~ controlled.

70. (Cancelled)

71. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 63, wherein the external digital device is a still camera, a video camera or a scanning device.

72. and 73. (Cancelled)

74. (Currently Amended) A ~~transfer device~~ set top box according to Claim 66, wherein the external digital device is a still camera, a video camera or a scanning device.

75. and 76. (Cancelled)

77. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable memory medium according to Claim 68, wherein the external digital device is a still camera, a video camera or a scanning device.

78. and 79. (Cancelled)

Please add claims 80 to 91, as follows:

80. (New) A method according to Claim 63, wherein after local storage of the data in a case where said cable head end is not ready to receive the data, said set top box awaits a determination that said cable head end has become ready to receive the data,

and uploads the data to said cable head end over the network after it is determined that said cable head end has become ready to receive the data.

81. (New) A method according to Claim 80, wherein after it is determined that said cable head end has become ready to receive the data, the data for upload is re-received from the external digital device if the external digital device is still connected.

82. (New) A method according to Claim 80, wherein after it is determined that said cable head end has become ready to receive the data, the data for upload is retrieved from local storage.

83. (New) A method according to Claim 63, wherein the determination of whether the cable head end is ready to receive data comprises establishment of a connection from said set top box to said cable head end over the network, and a request from said set top box to said cable head end over the connection for status of said cable head end.

84. (New) A set top box according to Claim 66, wherein after local storage of the data in a case where said cable head end is not ready to receive the data, said set top box awaits a determination that said cable head end has become ready to receive the data, and uploads the data to said cable head end over the network after it is determined that said cable head end has become ready to receive the data.

85. (New) A set top box according to Claim 84, wherein after it is determined that said cable head end has become ready to receive the data, the data for upload is re-received from the external digital device if the external digital device is still connected.

86. (New) A set top box according to Claim 84, wherein after it is determined that said cable head end has become ready to receive the data, the data for upload is retrieved from local storage.

87. (New) A set top box according to Claim 66, wherein the determination of whether the cable head end is ready to receive data comprises establishment of a connection from said set top box to said cable head end over the network, and a request from said set top box to said cable head end over the connection for status of said cable head end.

88. (New) A computer-readable memory medium according to Claim 68, wherein after local storage of the data in a case where said cable head end is not ready to receive the data, said set top box awaits a determination that said cable head end has become ready to receive the data, and uploads the data to said cable head end over the network after it is determined that said cable head end has become ready to receive the data.

89. (New) A computer-readable memory medium according to Claim 88, wherein after it is determined that said cable head end has become ready to receive the data, the data for upload is re-received from the external digital device if the external digital device is still connected.

90. (New) A computer-readable memory medium according to Claim 88, wherein after it is determined that said cable head end has become ready to receive the data, the data for upload is retrieved from local storage.

91. (New) A computer-readable memory medium according to Claim 68, wherein the determination of whether the cable head end is ready to receive data comprises establishment of a connection from said set top box to said cable head end over the network, and a request from said set top box to said cable head end over the connection for status of said cable head end.